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QUESTION: Mr. President, there are reports that Ambassador Lodge would like to be relieved of his post and that you are looking for a successor. Is there any truth to these reports?

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THE PRESIDENT: No, there is no truth that I am looking for a successor.

Ambassador Lodge has talked to me on several occasions that he, in due time, would leave his post. He left it on one other occasion, took a rest and went back and served a tour of duty.

There is no definite date set at this moment for his departure. I do expect to be visiting with Ambassador Lodge and with General Westmoreland, as we do from time to time.

We will fully explore his future in Vietnam, or elsewhere, if he cares to do that.

QUESTION: Mr. President, Vice President Humphrey has said that he is not happy with what the CIA has been doing in relation to financing student and other groups. What he said -- does that reflect your view?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think any of us are happy to see our Nation divided and see our country upset about situations such as Mr. Katzenbach is now studying.

I think it would be better for all of us if we were united and if all of us could agree upon a wise course of action and be free of any mistakes, any errors.

I regret very much some of the intemperate statements and some of the severe criticisms that have been made about various government agencies, including the Central Intelligence Agency.

I have asked the best people in the government to study everything CIA has done and make a report to me. I expect to receive that report sometime by the middle or the 20th of the month.

Then I will review it and make such decisions as may be indicated.

QUESTION: Mr. President, sir, one point that some of your critics on Vietnam have discussed in the past week is the question of whether or not what we do ask in re-

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year.

have settled for simply getting talks if we stopped, whereas,
now you are speaking of the need for reciprocal military
action. Could you discuss this?

THE PRESIDENT: We have talked about reciprocal
military action in every pause we have had, Mr. Bailey.

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